

ture. Shew the modifications necessary in applying the Venetian style to street architecture of the metropolis.

26. Name the style in which the use of columns in façades is interdicted, and the means taken for imparting grandeur to the composition, in lieu of using columns.

THIRD CLASS.

1. The true strength of materials in an edifice depending rather upon their distribution than upon their quantity, shew how the present mode of arranging the distances between rafters and floor-joists may be advantageously altered.

2. State the principles which should be observed by an architect in adapting the models of antiquity to buildings in this country, with a view to ornament and utility.

3. Describe the essential requisites for a labourer's cottage: sketch a plan for a model cottage, shewing the relative position of the doors, windows, fire-place and furniture.

4. It is important in making mortar that the greatest degree of solubility should be imparted to the lime with a minimum quantity of water: shew in what manner this object may be practically accomplished. Describe the mode at present in use for the above purpose.

5. Name the several precautions that ought to be taken to prevent the stone-work from crumbling and mouldering within a few years after the erection of the edifice: give instances of the neglect of these precautions from public buildings in the metropolis and elsewhere.

6. Explain the manner in which the alternate dilatation and contraction of iron may be rendered practically useful as an agent in the restoration of works, and mention examples of its success.

Miscellaneous.

THE VACANT SPACE IN DOWNING-STREET.—During the late debate in Parliament on the "Estimates," Sir Robert Inglis said it was very desirable that the large and at present unsightly area on the south side of Downing-street should be appropriated for the erection of a plain, solid, substantial building, for all the Commissioners appointed, so that it should not be necessary to have recourse to the occupation of houses in George-street, or elsewhere, for them. There ought also to be a building more worthy of the important business transacted in the *Foreign and Colonial Offices*. It was to be hoped that it was not generally known that the Foreign-office of England consisted of five separate private dwelling-houses, in such a ruinous state that the documents of the department had to be removed a floor lower, because the weight of them would hazard the stability of the building.

ELFORD, LITCHFIELD.—Two or three interesting events occurred at Elford, near Litchfield, Staffordshire, last week. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs. Puget (the rector's lady), of the new chancel and nave of the church there. Afterwards a new infant school, composed, in part, of the old church materials, was opened, and an entertainment given to the children, with fireworks and other rejoicings. On the following morning, a very good ridge-shaped grave-stone was discovered, while excavating within the boundary of the old church nave, having a raised (double) cross-stem, with enriched stem upon it; the upright cross had been wilfully mutilated, and was obliterated; it was two feet below the surface, but not far from an original pavement. It is in local grit, 4 feet long, by 18 inches head, 14 at foot: a very slight slope 8 to 10 inches thick: a bead runs round the border. Some think it is a child's grave-stone, though a cross. Mr. E. Richardson, the sculptor, is engaged here in the restoration of some interesting monumental effigies, eight in number, of the Ardernes and Stanleys, from Richard II. to Henry VIII., all in alabaster; together with two elaborate table tombs, canopied (one the Ardernes'), and containing twenty-two statuettes, well proportioned, and with an admirable, if not unknown variety of the costumes of the reigns of Henry IV. and V. The sculptor proposes, if sufficient support can be obtained, to publish these works in quarto, to match his "Templars."

A DISTRICT COURT OF SEWERS was held on Thursday last, at the office, No. 6, Bethnal-green, for the purpose of hearing appeals against the sewer-rates made for the Tower Hamlets division. Upwards of 2,000 notices of appeals had been given, but not more than 400 cases were entered into, the parties not being in attendance when called. Sir E. N. Buxton, M.P., was in the chair. Several of the parties summoned stated that they had objected to the payment of the rates, not on account of their being illegally made, but with a view of bringing their cases of individual grievance immediately under the notice of the commissioners. They stated that they had for several years paid sewer-rates, and although they had complained of want of proper drainage time after time to the old commissioners, that no steps had been taken to remedy the evil. The court said that there was every disposition to listen to all complaints, and, as far as at present lay in their power, to remedy them; but to enable the commissioners better to judge of what was required, the court recommended that a book should be kept at the district office, in which all parties having complaints to make as to drainage should enter the same, so that their surveyors might investigate the matter. The court also gave notice to householders that full explanation as to the proper course to be taken for cleansing cesspools and drains in the quickest, cheapest, and least offensive manner, would be given without any charge, on application at the chief office in Greek-street, or at any of the district offices.—The great majority of the appeals were on the ground of poverty.—The following is an abstract of the new rate for the Holborn division, of 6d. in the pound:—

Field-lane sewer	£610	5	0
Leather-lane sewer	611	5	6
Gray's-ino-lane, first part	3,462	18	6
Ditto second part	3,056	8	6
Southampton estate sewer	1,919	15	0
Northern sewer	5,907	4	6
Chancery-lane sewer	559	13	6
Holborn sewer	3,008	17	0
	£19,169	7	6

DATES ON BRASSES NO AUTHORITY FOR COSTUME.—Mr. Waller said, in his paper read at Worcester, and mentioned by us last week, that dates on brasses of themselves form no criterion or authority for contemporary costumes or period of execution. An instance occurs of two bearing the same date whose costume and execution differ from each other by sixty years. (*Sir John de Lisle, Thurston, Hants, and Sir John de Cobham, Cobham, Kent.*) In order, therefore, to arrive at a correct notion of the real date of the execution of the monument, a careful comparison should be instituted between as many examples of the same date, or thereabouts, as can be obtained; thus the true one will be easily confirmed, and the causes of departure from it probably determined. Brasses are often left for after-insertion of dates, and never filled up. These are very useful examples; for as it usually happens that these are put up by a survivor, it is pretty certain to be contemporary or nearly so; thus a point to start from is often obtained in settling the true chronology of dates. On the subject of costume, brasses present great facilities for study, especially in defensive armour, where the gradual development from the ringed hauberk, &c., to an entire panoply of steel plates, may be traced in all its changes from the thirteenth to the seventeenth century, when it fell into disuse.

GAS.—An invention has been patented by Messrs. John Watson and Edward Cart, of Hull, for the regulation of the supply of any liquid material to gas retorts, for the evolution of gas, according to the quantity withdrawn from the gasometer.—Dr. Arnott gave it as his opinion, in evidence on the case of explosion at Albany-street, that an escape of gas was quite sufficient to explain the phenomena to the full extent; and that, as gas ascends to the top of a room, had Captain Loten, in his endeavours to see, by the light of a candle, where the gas escaped, only lowered the candle in place of raising it above his head, no explosion might have occurred. The surer remedy, or preventive rather, he regarded as a ventilator at the ceiling, opening into the chimney, which is always an air pump.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders by 15th inst., for the erection of a new asylum wing to the hospital at Westbourne Green; by 5th, for the several works to be executed in building an addition to the workhouse in Gray's Inn-lane; by 7th, for building 3,245 feet of sewer in Holloway and Seven Sisters-road; by 6th, for sinking shafts and driving headings, and for forming 2½ and 3¼ miles of railway for the Vale of Neath Company—separate tenders; by 14th, for 356 yards strong cast-iron pipes, 87 yards ornamental railing and gates, area gates, and other work, for nine houses in Leeds; by 23rd, for the construction of two cast-iron swivel bridges for the Victoria dock, Hull; and by 5th October, for iron tanks, &c., for the Royal Navy.

THE VERNON GALLERY.—The trustees of the National Gallery directed their architect, Mr. Pennethorne, to examine and report upon the facilities for placing and exhibiting the Vernon collection in the lower rooms of the gallery in Trafalgar-square. We understand his report to be, that the rooms in question are totally unsuited to the reception of the pictures, with regard both to light and space. The space required for their proper display is three thousand square feet. Mr. Pennethorne has, we believe, suggested to the trustees to erect a plain temporary building in one of the parks—a building that will not be required to last more than ten or twelve years; and to apply to Parliament for an annual grant of 15,000l. or 20,000l. to accumulate during these ten or twelve years, by which means a fund will be formed for the erection of a National Gallery; and the site he recommends is Cleveland-row, the leases of a number of houses in which will expire about the year 1860, when the ground will become the property of the crown.—*Art-Journal.*

BIRMINGHAM INDUSTRY.—The cottages and humble dwellings of England are indebted to Birmingham and its neighbourhood for a greater amount of neat interior fittings, useful utensils, and ingenious knick-knacks of all kinds, than fall to the lot, perhaps, of any other country in the world. Let the reader take his eyes off this sheet for a few minutes, and glance round the room in which he may be sitting—we care not whether it be in a house of 10l. or 100l. a-year rental: let him look at the doors, the windows, the fire-place, the cupboards, or closets, the furniture, the implements and vessels, the ornaments or decorations—wherever he may look, Birmingham is before him. There is scarcely a room in this country, except in the most poverty-stricken hovel, that does not contain some article of Birmingham manufacture. Let him then go from houses to persons: let him look at English dress, and all its endless variety, and then say whether there is one such dress that is not indebted to Birmingham for something or other in a metallic form. It may be trivial, it is true; but this very triviality only the better illustrates the minute applications which are now made of metal. Will not a beaver or silk hat escape this enumeration? Look at the little buckle that fastens the band. Are not our boots excepted? Look at the nails and 'tips,' or at the tags of laces. Female attire? Let the buttons and buckles and clasps, the pins, and hooks-and-eyes and lace-holes, the combs and bracelets and armlets, the rings and brooches and necklaces—let them all give evidence to the part which Birmingham and its vicinity have taken in decking out any and every Englishwoman. If you write a letter, look at your desk, your inkstand, your steel-pen, your pen-holder, your wafer-stamp, your seal, your candlestick or taper-stand, and think how far Birmingham has been concerned in them. If a lady, seated at her work, would gossip a little about her work-trinkets, the needles, pins, thumb, bodkin, piercer, crochet and knitting-needles—all would tell of Birmingham, or in some few instances of Sheffield or Redditch. If you walk abroad, and rain befall you, ask who made the metal work of your umbrella. If you ride on horseback, think where the bridle-bit, the stirrups, and the buckles came from. In short, do anything, go anywhere, buy, beg, borrow, make, alter, eat, drink, walk, ride, look, hear, touch—you cannot shake off Birmingham for many minutes together.—*The Land we live in.*